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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,091	08/20/2003	Fuji Akahane	Q77088	4965
23373	7590	03/02/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			CRANE, DANIEL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3725	

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

7P

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,091	AKAHANE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel C Crane	3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 24-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3,5-17 and 23 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2,4 and 18-22 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

BASIS FOR REJECTIONS

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS ON FORMAL MATTERS

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The scope of this claim is indeterminate as it is unclear whether the claimed features are in addition to the claimed punch or are removed from the claimed punch. Because of this confusion and contrary features, the scope of the subject matter cannot be determined. The claimed subject matter has been examined as best understood.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER PRIOR ART

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bailey (4,434,637). See Figures 3 and 4 where a first die 36 and second die 34 are each provided with a plurality of projections 78, 80, 82, 84, 86 and 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, respectively, each of the projections of the second die having a concave portion 102. Since the projections are narrow and intermesh with one another, they “cut into” the material in a manner of entering into the sheet material 10. Claim 23 has been examined as best understood.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bion (3,665,745). With reference to Figures 1-3, the punch is shown to comprise a first die 12 and a second die 10, each die having projections 12, 11, respectively, that are elongated (longer than their width). The projections 11 of the second die 10 are shown to have recesses 11b having angled surfaces similar in configuration to applicant’s concavities shown in Figures 17a-17c in that they have a plurality of flat faces.

Claims 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bion (3,665,745). As long as the concave portion and the cooperating convex portion are of such a height to facilitate bunching of the material, it is the examiner’s position that the exact shape of the concave and convex portions would be dictated by the thickness of the sheet material. Accordingly, the skilled artisan having the benefit of Bion’s concave/convex portions would have recognized the design of the portions for suitable bunching of the material during the shaping operation. No new and unexpected result has been disclosed because of the differing

concave/convex portions. This similarly applies to the specific sizes of the portions. The skilled artisan would have further realized the need to finish the dies to high standards to eliminate any wear and sheet material adhesion to the dies.

WITHDRAWAL OF NONELECTED CLAIMS

Claims 24-30 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on January 14, 2005.

INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2, 4 and 18-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PRIOR ART CITED BY EXAMINER

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

RESPONSE BY APPLICANT(S)

Applicant(s) response to be fully responsive and to provide for a clear record must specifically point out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the

Art Unit: 3725

references, both those references applied in the objections and rejections and those references cited in view of the state of the art in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111 (a), (b) and (c).

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4516**. The examiner's office hours are 6:30AM-5:00PM, Tuesday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Derris Banks, can be reached at **(571) 272-4419**.

Documents related to the instant application may be submitted directly to Group 3700 by facsimile transmission at all times. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any transmission as "DRAFT" if it is not to be considered as an official response. The Group 3725 Facsimile Center number is **(703) 872-9306**.

DCCrane
February 25, 2005



Daniel C. Crane
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3725